

fuel based power plants including those based on naphtha on a sustained basis, including that for the Dabhol Phase I project (Enron). This, inter alia, involves issues on indigenous supply, foreign exchange requirements, transportation and handling facilities, etc. As on date, Ministry of Power has received proposals from several States for recommending allocation of liquid fuels for projects with a total proposed capacity of about 34 000 MW. Guidelines for allocation of liquid fuels to these plants are being prepared in consultation with Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas and the State Governments.

#### Expert Committee for Power Sector

\*295. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister overruled the expert panel on Power Projects as reported in the "Indian Express" dated October 18, 1996;

(b) if so, whether an inter-ministerial expert committee has been set up recently;

(c) whether the committee comprises representatives from the Ministries of Power, Coal, Environment and Industry;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any report has been submitted by the committee to the Prime Minister;

(f) the reasons for overruling the expert panel; and

(g) the number of recommendations of the Committee accepted by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). A working Group was constituted in August, 1996 by the Ministry of Environment and Forests comprising representatives of Ministry of Environment and Forests, Ministry of Power, Ministry of Coal, Central Pollution Control Board and Central Electricity Authority for evolving norms for delegation of powers to the State Government(s) for environmental clearance of thermal power projects.

(e) to (g). Draft Norms for delegation of powers to the State Government(s) for environmental clearance of thermal power projects evolved on the basis of the recommendations of the Working Group were circulated during the meeting of the Chief Ministers held on 3.12.1996 for seeking the views of various State Governments. The Norms have not been finalised.

[Translation]

#### Master Plan

\*296. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Supreme Court has issued certain directions for the implementation of 'Master Plan';

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi has requested the Union Government to make certain amendments in the 'Delhi Master Plan-2001';

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the action taken or proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b). The Supreme Court in its order dated 19.4.96 on a petition filed by Shri M.C. Mehta against UOI and Ors. in Civil Writ Petition No. 4677/85 directed the Chief Secretary NCT of Delhi to constitute a Committee under the Chairmanship of a representative of NCT of Delhi to ensure compliance of the Master Plan provisions in respect of industries located in residential areas. It was further directed that no industry in any residential area of Delhi/New Delhi should be permitted unless it had obtained the clearance of the Committee as well as necessary licence and consent from the statutory authorities. All these industries which has not obtained necessary permission of the committee should stop operating in the residential areas w.e.f. 1.1.1997 (except industries falling under 'A' category which will also function with the consent of the constituted Committee). The Supreme Court has also passed an order on 8.7.96 in I.A. No. 22 of the same Writ Petition to the effect that 168 hazardous, noxious, heavy and large industrial units in the National Capital Territory of Delhi classified as such under MFD 2001 should re-locate/shift themselves to some other industrial estate in NCR and stop operating in the city of Delhi w.e.f. 30.11.96. Out of these 168 industrial units, the Idgah Slaughter House (appearing at S.No. 99 of the list of 168), has been permitted by the Supreme Court vide orders dated 30.11.96 to function upto 30.6.1997, subject to certain conditions. The Supreme Court further ordered the closure of 513 similar units w.e.f. 31.1.97 and 43 similar units w.e.f. 28.2.97 respectively.

The Supreme Court in its order dated 5.5.95 in I.A. No.18 of W.P. (Civil) No. 4677/85 has also directed the land-owning agencies to evict all encroachers from the

Ridge. Further, orders were also passed by the Court to (i) ensure afforestation of the area by way of planting trees and (ii) fence the ridge area. Compliance action in this behalf is in progress.

(c) to (f). The Chief Minister of Delhi in a letter had requested that the Master Plan for Delhi 2001 be amended to allow more time for shifting of the industrial units affected by Supreme Court judgement. However, as the Supreme Court has fixed definite time limits for closing/shifting of certain specified categories of industries, whose continuance in Delhi was against the provisions of the Master Plan and was not considered to be in public interest, any amendments to the Master Plan at this stage will not be appropriate unless the Honble Court agrees. Further the suggestion will not solve the problem; but only postpone the solution thereof.

[English]

#### Pattern of Earthquakes

\*297 SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any worthwhile study has been made about the pattern of earthquakes in the country;

(b) if so, the details and the findings thereof;

(c) whether any progress has been achieved in predicting the pattern of earthquake; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Studies have been made on distribution and nature of earthquakes in India and its neighbourhood. On the basis of these studies and other Geological and Geophysical features, Seismic zoning map of India has been prepared by Bureau of Indian Standards dividing the country into five seismic zones. Zone V is the most vulnerable to earthquakes while the zone I is the least. Tectonic map of India has also been prepared indicating fault zones. Efforts have also been made to identify earthquake precursors but without much success.

(c) and (d). No, Sir. There is no scientific technique available to forecast earthquakes.

#### Subsidy Programme for Solar Hot Water System under the Solar Thermal Energy Programme

\*298. SHRI UTTAM SINGH PAWAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently

introduced Subsidy programme for Solar Hot Water System under the Solar Thermal Energy Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether commercial as well as technological viability of Solar Hot Water System has been assessed while initiating the Scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) The Government have introduced an interest subsidy scheme for providing soft loans to users for installation of solar water heating systems under the Solar Thermal Energy Programme. The scheme is being currently operated through the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) and Canara Bank. Under the Scheme, IREDA provides soft loans for industrial and institutional systems directly (at interest rates of 8.3% to industries and 5% to non profit making organisations respectively) and for domestic systems through its financial intermediaries (at a maximum rate of 5% to end users). Canara Bank provides soft loans for solar water heaters for domestic users and small establishments at an interest rate of 5.5%. The Canara Bank Scheme is at present operational in Bangalore, Mangalore, Mysore, Delhi, Madras and Pune. Under the Scheme, a rebate of 0.5% on the above interest rates is available for installation of BIS - (Bureau of Indian Standards) approved solar collectors in the water heating systems.

(c) and (d). Solar water heating is a well established technology in many parts of the world. In some countries, there are even mandatory provisions for using solar water heaters in residential buildings. In India also the technology is reasonably well established. The economic viability of solar water heaters, which replace use of electricity and other fuels, is also well recognised. From the national point of view, the savings in the conventional fuels and significant reduction in the peak load demand for electricity which arise from wider use of solar water heaters, result in substantial savings in the investments required for additional grid power generating capacity. Environmental benefits are added advantages.

#### Preservation and Processing of Fish

\*299 SHRI SYDAIAH KOTA :

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA :

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken for the development of infrastructural facilities for preservation and processing of fish sea coast;